



New Interchange Law & Procedures 2008

A U S T R A L I A N F O O T B A L L L E A G U E

Law 7 Interchange



- **7. Interchange**
- **7.1 Interchange Stewards – Appointment and Duties**

A Controlling Body may appoint two Interchange Stewards to officiate during a Match. The Interchange Steward shall:

- a) be positioned throughout the Match at or near the Interchange Area;
- b) monitor and approve the interchange of players made by each Team during the Match
- c) report to an Umpire any infringement by a Team of this Law 7; and
- d) report to the Controlling Body any infringement by a Team of this Law 7.

Law 7 Interchange



- **7.2 Procedure for Interchange**

- a) The following procedure shall apply to the interchange of Players during a Match unless Law 7.3 applies:
 - i. the Team Official must advise the Interchange Steward of the Team's intention to replace a Player who is currently on the Playing Surface for another listed on its Team Sheet;
 - ii. the replacement Player must not enter the Playing Surface until the Interchange Steward is satisfied the replacement is permitted and has approved the replacement.

Law 7 Interchange



- iii. the replacement Player must move to the Interchange Holding Area and remain there until the Player he is replacing has left the Playing Surface through the Interchange Area, failing which the replacement Player will be reported to the Controlling Body under Law 7.2(b)

- iv. the Player to be replaced must leave the Playing Surface through the Interchange Area before the replacement Player may enter the Playing Surface through the Interchange Area;

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- v. the Interchange Steward shall notify an Umpire who may then advise the field Umpire to award a Free Kick (plus 50m) in accordance with Law 15.12 when:
 - A. a Player to be replaced does not leave the Playing Surface through the Interchange Area; or
 - B. where the interchange of Players during a Match does not occur in accordance with Law 7.2(a)(iv); or
 - C. the procedure set out in Law 7.2(a)(i) and (ii) is not followed.
- b) Notwithstanding any other provision in this Law 7.2, the Interchange Steward and/or an Umpire shall report the circumstances of any breach of this Law 7.2 to the Controlling Body, including the scores at the time of the breach. The Controlling Body may determine the matter by way of fine, change of match result or any other sanction as it deems appropriate.
- c) unless otherwise permitted in these Laws, no Team Official is permitted outside the Interchange Holding Area.

The Procedure for the Awarding of a Free Kick



15.12 Free Kick – Players Exceeding Permitted Number

Where a Team has more than the permitted number of Players on the Playing Surface and/or in accordance with Law 7.2(a)(v), the following shall apply:

- (a) a field Umpire shall award a Free Kick to a player from the opposing Team who is nearest to the ball at the time the Free Kick is awarded which shall be taken at the Centre Circle or where play has stopped, which ever, in the opinion of the controlling field Umpire, is the greater penalty against the offending Team; and
- (b) a Fifty-Metre Penalty shall then be imposed from the position where the Free Kick was awarded

AFL Interchange Steward Role



- Introduce yourself to the Interchange Stewards from your allocated team
- Each team is to be allocated a pad of Interchange Notes - (diff colour).
- Ensure players leave and enter ground through Interchange Area.
- Ensure replacement players wait in their designated holding bay areas
- Once the player has left the field through the interchange area the replacement player may enter the playing ground through the interchange area.
- Approval from the Interchange Steward must be granted before the interchange can occur.

AFL Interchange Steward Role (cont.)



- Breaches of the Designated Holding Bay procedure are to be marked on the control sheet for further sanction by the controlling body.
- The AFL Interchange Steward shall notify an umpire who may then advise a field umpire to award a free kick in accordance with Law 15.12

Club Interchange Official Role



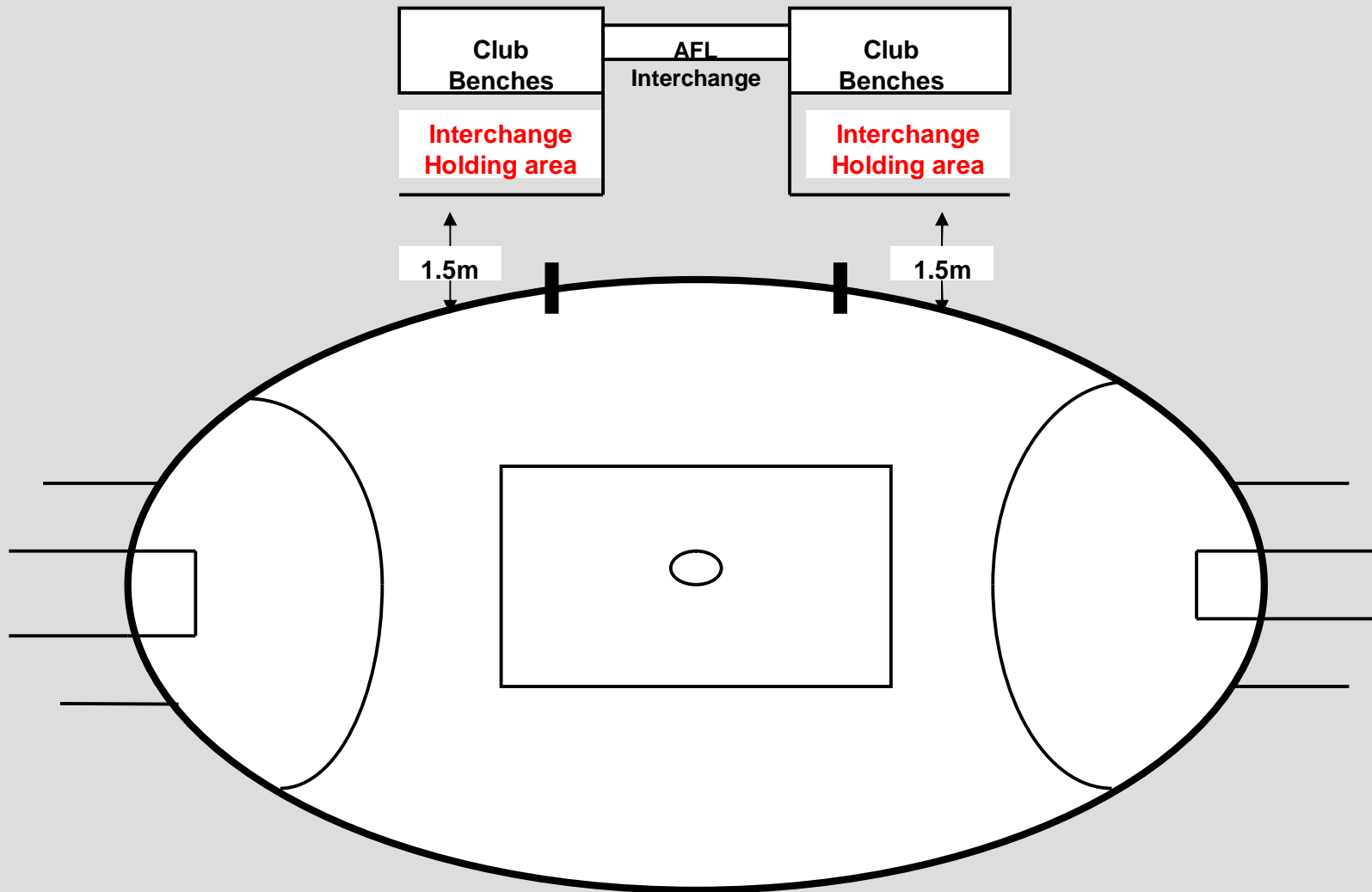
- Notify AFL Interchange Steward of all impending changes via interchange notes.
- Maintain control over interchange players and ensure they stay within their holding bay until the designated player leaves the playing surface.
- All club officials must stay within the confines of their designated holding bay areas.

Umpires Role Requirements



- an Umpire will be responsible for notifying a Field umpire of any infringement under rule 7.2
- It will be the primary responsibility of an Umpire who is in the vicinity of the Interchange Area to notify a field umpire if any free kick (plus 50m) is required under rule 15.12.
- If the Emergency Field Umpire is out on the field performing his duties the responsibility of notifying the Field Umpire of any infringement falls to the third Boundary Umpire.
- If neither the Emergency Field nor the third Boundary Umpire are available due to injury the responsibility then falls to the Emergency Goal Umpire.

NEW INTERCHANGE PROCEDURES



Failure to Notify Interchange Steward of a Player Replacement



If a Club Team Official does NOT advise the Interchange Steward of the intention to replace a player and a player is replaced a free kick (plus 50m) will apply.

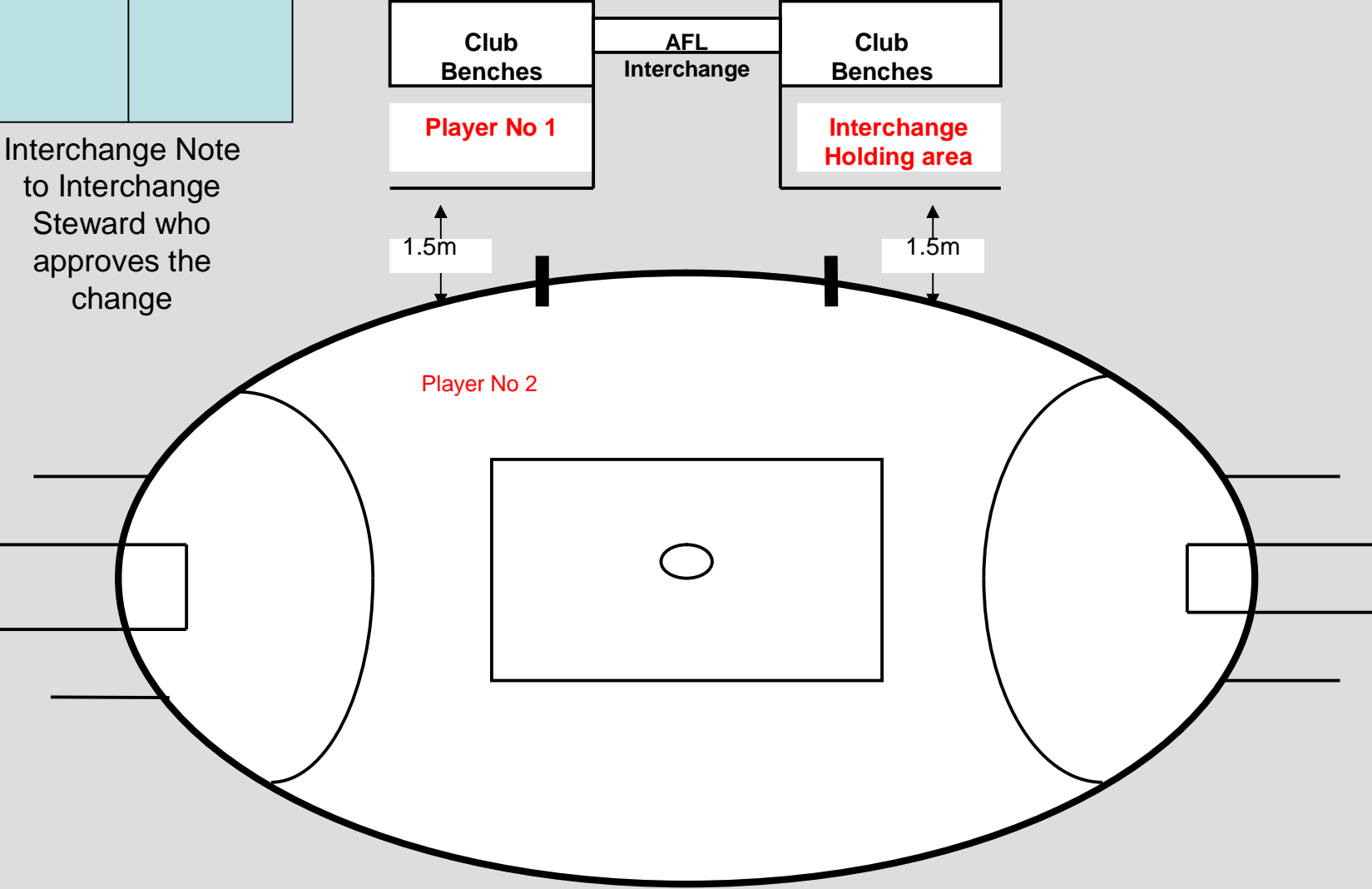
TEAM

OFF

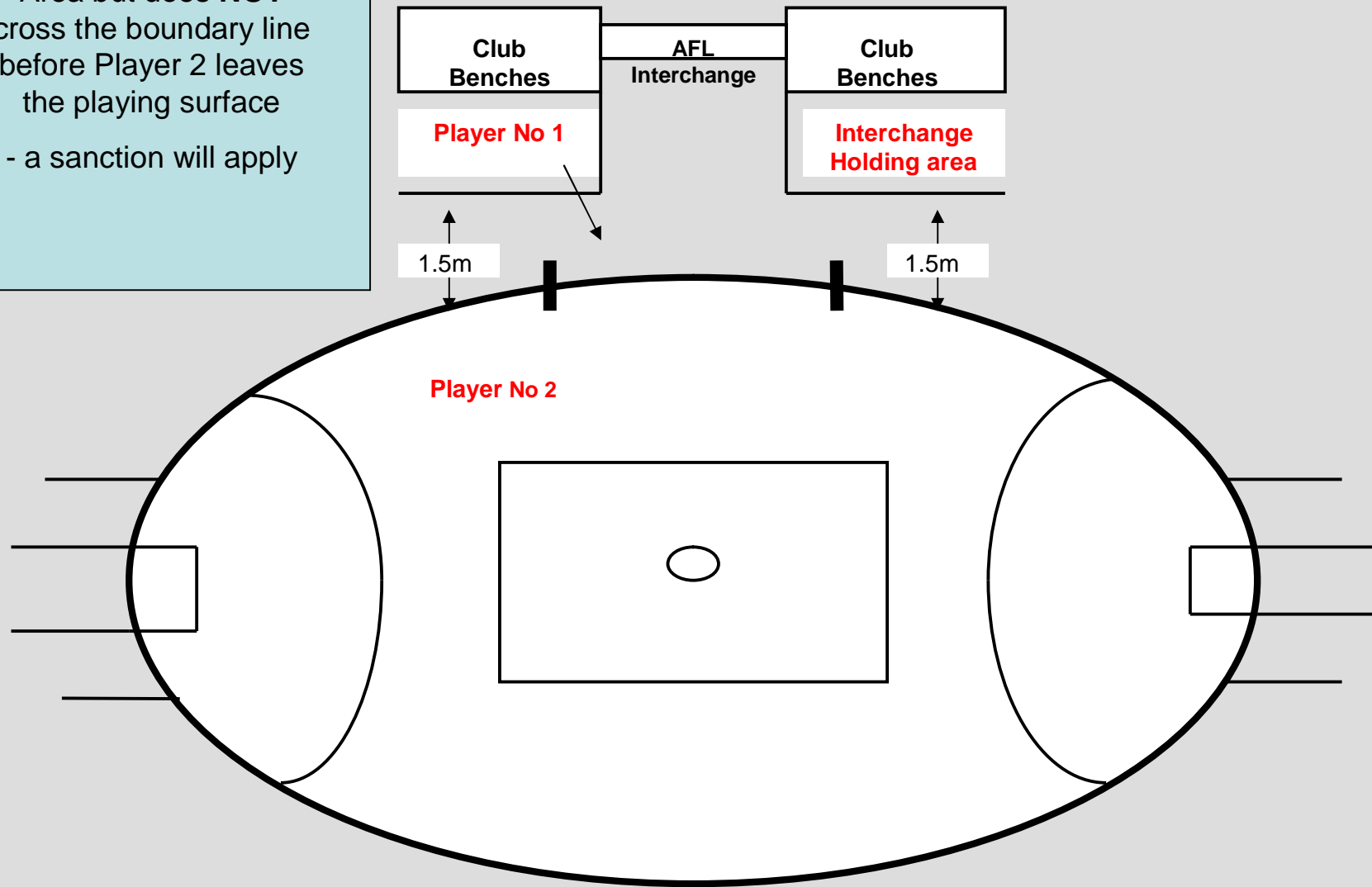
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OFF	ON
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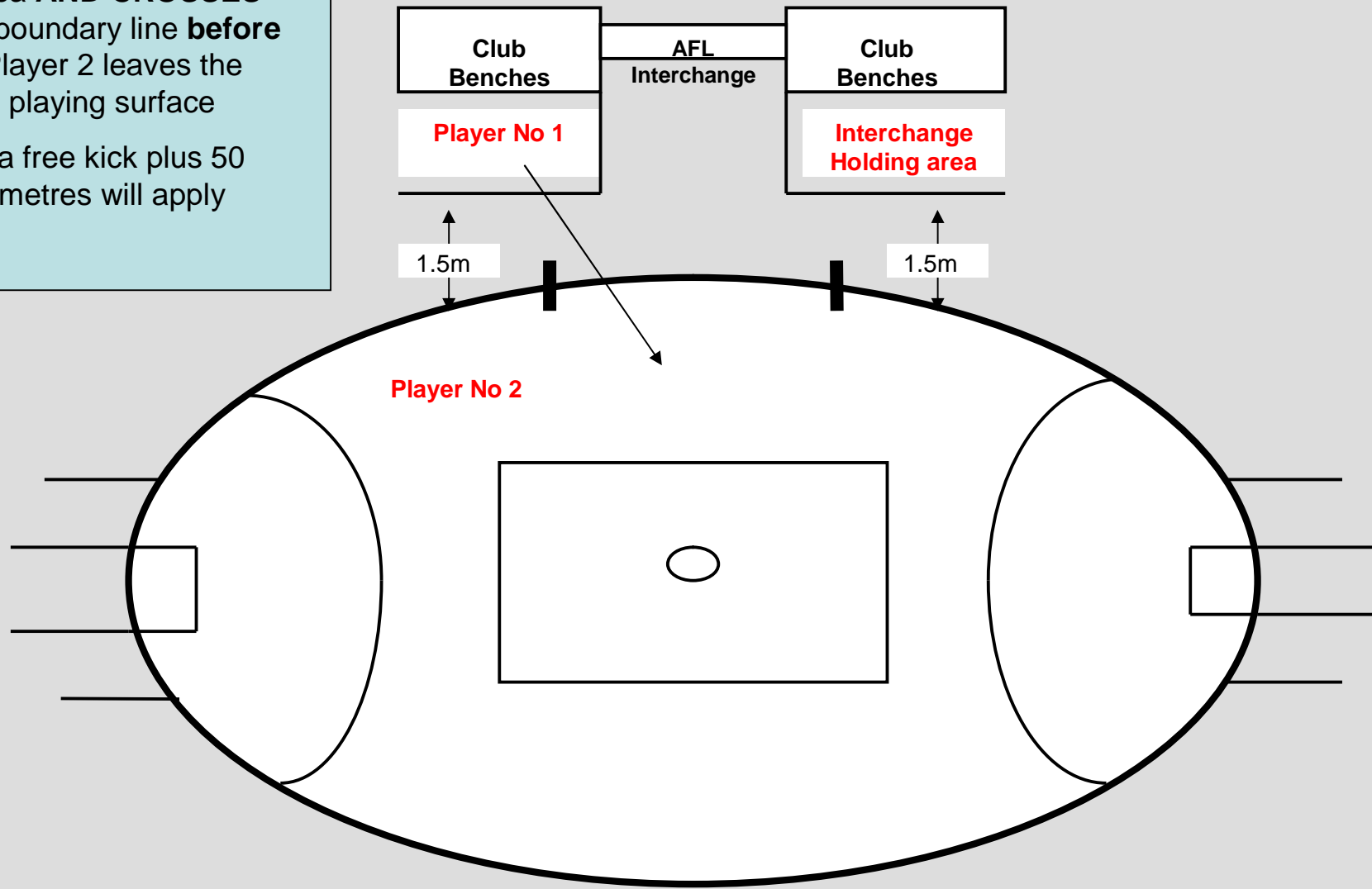
Interchange Note
to Interchange
Steward who
approves the
change



If Player 1 leaves the Interchange Holding Area but does **NOT** cross the boundary line before Player 2 leaves the playing surface - a sanction will apply



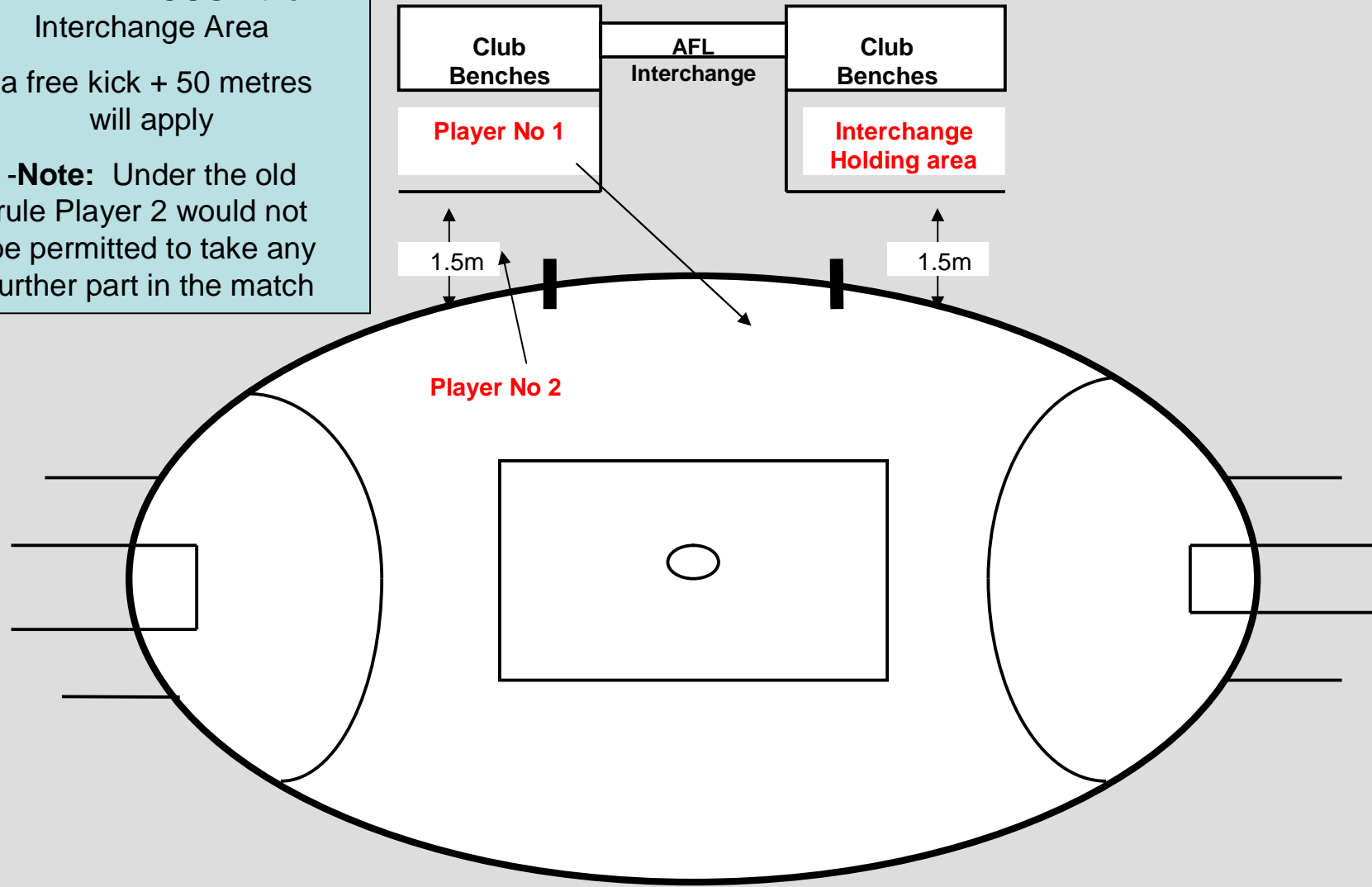
If Player 1 leaves the Interchange Holding Area **AND CROSSES** the boundary line **before** Player 2 leaves the playing surface
- a free kick plus 50 metres will apply



If Player 2 leaves the playing surface **OTHER THAN THROUGH** the Interchange Area

-a free kick + 50 metres will apply

-**Note:** Under the old rule Player 2 would not be permitted to take any further part in the match



Key Points



- The key purpose of the change is to ensure a modernised procedure is in place to prevent extra players entering the ground and to reduce the possibility of clubs losing their score or premiership points
- To reduce the potential for injury due to heavy traffic in this area.
- Free Kicks and Sanctions, for breaches of procedure
 - Free Kick + 50 Metres – Major Breach
 - Sanction – Minor Breach
- Clubs must exercise greater duty of care re Interchanges
- Players who miss the interchange area gate when exiting after Round 9 will be free kicked (plus 50m) rather than “off” for the rest of the game.